

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A ladder adapted to be secured to a truck fitted with a pivotal tailgate, the ladder comprising

a first leg portion pivotally coupled to a second leg portion, at least one of said leg portions being fitted with at least one rung;

an upper end of the first leg portion adapted to be pivotally attachable to an upper portion of the tailgate and a lower end of the second leg portion adapted to be pivotally and releasably secured to a support member projecting from any rigid portion of the truck,

wherein, at an end of the support member and at a lowermost point of the second leg portion,
there is a pivot for pivotally articulating the second leg portion on a lower portion of the truck,

whereby when the tailgate is in its closed position, the first leg portion and the second leg portion are adapted to continuously extend over the tailgate in a first operable position and opening the tailgate is associated with spontaneous and automatic deploying the ladder into a corresponding second operable position.

2. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the location that the first leg portion is adapted to be attached to the tailgate and the location that the second leg portion is adapted to be attached to the truck both extend forward of the location where said first leg portion is coupled to said second leg portion.

3. (Original) A ladder according to claim 2, wherein at least the first leg portion comprises two parallelly extending side rails with the at least one rung parallelly disposed therebetween.
4. (Original) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the second leg portion comprises a single support leg.
5. Canceled.
6. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the second leg portion is swingable rearwardly upon detachment from the truck.
7. (Original) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the first leg portion and the second leg portion are lockably coupled to thereby prevent displacing the tailgate into an open position.
8. (Original) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein between the first leg portion and the second leg portion there is a hinge fixable at a plurality of intermediate positions to thereby facilitate arresting the second leg portion at a plurality of corresponding angular positions with respect to the first leg portion.
9. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the ladder is adapted to be spontaneously deployed to a second operable position upon opening the tailgate and where at said second operable position there is a rung accessible at a level lower than where the ladder is adapted to be fastened to the lower portion of the truck.
10. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the lower portion of the truck to

which the second leg portion is adapted to be attachable is a bumper of the truck.

11. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the lower portion of the truck to which the second leg portion is adapted to be attachable is a lower rear portion of a chassis of the truck.

12. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein the lower ends of the second leg portion are pivotally connectable to a support leg by removable pivot pins.

13. (Original) A ladder according to claim 12, wherein the ladder may be deployed such that it is supported at its lower end by the ground surface.

14. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 12, wherein the second leg portion may be arrested at any angular position by a pivot hinge extending between the first leg portion and the second leg portion lockable at several angular positions.

15. (Previously presented) A ladder according to claim 1, wherein both the first leg portion and the second leg portion each comprise two parallelly extending side rails that are made of pre-fabricated modular components.

16. Canceled.

17. (Original) A ladder according to claim 15, wherein pre-fabricated members of the side rails are pivotally fixable to one another.